IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/578,703)	**CUSTOMER NO. 27717**
)	
Applicant: Michael John Watchorn)	
)	
Filed: July 10, 2006)	Confirmation No. 3884
)	
Docket No.: 37389-405400)	Examiner: Gary S. Hartmann
)	
Mailing Date: May 18, 2009)	Group Art Unit: 3671
)	
Title: ACCESS METHOD BETWEEN MARINE)	
STRUCTURES AND APPARATUS)	
)	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2009, in which the examiner

required restriction to one of the following inventions:

Group I, claims 1-6 and 45-49, drawn to a method;

Group II, claims 7-37 and 63, drawn to an apparatus; and

Group III, claims 50-61, drawn to an apparatus.

CH 11725079.1

Application Serial No. 10/578,703
Response to Restriction Requirement of March 24, 2009

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the invention of Group I, drawn to a method, for further prosecution on the merits in this application. Applicant contends that Claims 1-6 and 45-49 correspond to the elected species and are likewise elected for further prosecution. All other claims will be treated as withdrawn unless and until they are either cancelled from or rejoined to the present application.

Should any formalities remain, the examiner is respectfully requested to phone the undersigned attorney to expedite examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

By_____

Robert W. Diehl
PTO Reg. No. 35,118
Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Attorneys for Assignee
131 S. Dearborn Street
Suite 2400
Chicago, Illinois 60603
312-460-5000
312-460-7000 (fax)

CHI 11725079.1